

Press Release



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Senator Coleman Stands With Personal Rights Advocacy Group Against Marriage Ban

Coleman Backs Coalition Campaigning to Keep Marriage Out of Constitution

JEFFERSON CITY – Senator Maida Coleman, D-St. Louis, today announced her support of a coalition working to thwart efforts to have the state’s constitution effectively ban same-sex marriages. “PROMO,” a group advocating for the personal rights of Missourians, heads the coalition that includes the American Civil Liberties Union of Eastern Missouri and the Four Freedoms Democratic Club.

Senator Coleman said that despite her wishes and the desires of many of her lawmaking colleagues, a constitutional language proposal that would have Missouri legally recognize only marriages between a man and a woman has cleared both the state House and Senate and is now poised to go before voters in August or November.

Senator Coleman, the PROMO-led coalition and others are working to prevent the changing of the state constitution by educating voters on the rights afforded to all citizens by the United States Constitution – regardless of race, color, creed, socio-economic status or sexual orientation.

“This is not the first time in American History when states have tried to control who can and who cannot marry,” Sen. Coleman said. “We can look back to when wives were essentially considered the property of their husbands; when marriage was defined as a union between people of the same religion; when interracial couples were prohibited from marrying, and wonder how it is we as a nation could ever have been so narrow-minded. Today, we must express the same incredulity, outrage and opposition to the marriage-ban proposal that would trample the rights of same sex partners. The sanctity of marriage lies outside the bounds of legislation and rests with the men and women in each couple committing to the institution.”